MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 NOVEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq announced new air raids on Iranian targets in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio 11 November, stating that Iraqi planes struck at the Bandar-e Khomeyni petrochemical complex, scoring "accurate blows," while other Iraqi aircraft inflicted "destructive blows" on the missiles and radars used in the port's antiaircraft defense system. Iraqi warplanes also raided the Imam Hasan oil fields, setting pumps and separators on fire, the communique added. Iraqi planes launched fresh raids the following day, according to a statement carried by Voice of the Masses, hitting refineries and a power station in Esfahan and striking again at the Imam Hasan oil pumping stations. A communique broadcast by the radio reported raids on three Iranian Revolution Guards Corps camps 12 November, asserting that the attacks killed "large numbers of the rogues."

For Iran's part, IRNA acknowledged that an industrial target in Bandar-e Mahshahr was damaged in an 11 November Iraqi raid, but claimed that an Iraqi MiG-23 was shot down by antiaircraft fire. The 12 November Iraqi raid on Esfahan damaged two industrial units, killed 7 civilians, and wounded 25 others, IRNA stated. An Iranian military spokesman cited by the agency warned that Iran would begin shelling three Iraqi cities 12 November in retaliation for the renewed Iraqi air raids.

Regarding Iranian military preparations at the battlefronts, Tehran radio broadcast Revolution Guards Corps Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust's remark that Iran is providing its troops with filters and decontamination equipment to combat Iraqi chemical weapons. He also noted plans to send another 100,000 volunteers to the war fronts, IRNA noted.

As for the controversy over alleged U.S. arms shipments to Iran, the head of the Danish seaman's union told AFP that Danish ships carried at least nine arms shipments to Iran this year, including secret U.S. deliveries. AFP also cited the Paris weekly *Petrostrategies' report that the United States has withdrawn its* AWACS support for Iraq in response to an Iranian promise to help free the U.S. hostages in Lebanon.

Iran

Internal Situation — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri discussed "important" issues with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni during a meeting reported by Tehran radio 10 November. In Paris, the Mojahedin-e Khalq stated that the Iranian Army's chief counterintelligence officer has been arrested in Tehran for allegedly disclosing military information. In another internal development, IRNA announced that two "agents of international imperialism" were arrested after an unsuccessful attempt to hijack an airliner travelling from Tehran to Tabriz 10 November.

Saudi Oil Message — A message from Saudi King Fahd to President 'Ali Khamene'i expressed Saudi Arabia's desire for greater collaboration with Iran on OPEC issues and requested Iran's support for a satisfactory pricing policy, Tehran radio reported. The message, which was delivered by the Saudi charge d'affaires 10 November, also expressed the two countries' "unanimity" of views concerning oil and OPEC, the radio said.

Agreement With France — France and Iran will shortly sign an agreement on the settlement of the financial dispute which has hindered the normalization of their relations, the French foreign minister disclosed in an 11 November television interview cited by Paris radio. He refused to make any connection between the normalization of French-Iranian relations and the possible release of more French hostages in Lebanon.

Syria and Lebanon

Release of French Hostages — Two French hostages released by their captors in Lebanon were handed over to French officials at the Syrian Foreign Ministry in Damascus 11 November, Damascus radio reported, adding that the French envoys expressed France's appreciation and gratitude for Syria's "great efforts and effective assistance" to secure the hostages' release. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' acknowledged that France's political stand was a "catalytic" factor in securing the hostages' release, and he said a close reading of the EEC statement confirms that the European view on Syria "does not agree and is not compatible with British claims." Syria distinguishes between Britain's "anti-Syrian" stand and the stands of the other European states, Al-Shar' said, and when the Europeans declare that they do not intend to sell arms to Syria, they know that the latter "never" imports arms from Western countries anyway. A Damascus radio report on the EEC measures likewise cited the view of "observers" that the Thatcher government failed to persuade the Europeans to take the measures it hoped for, adding that this follows statements by several Western officials that Syria is unconnected with international terrorism and that it plays and important and basic role in the Middle East.

In Lebanon, the Organization of Revolutionary Justice said it had decided to release the two Frenchmen after "promises" made by the French Government concerning its demands, according to AFP.

Soviet Visitors in Damascus — Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas received visiting Soviet Deputy Defense Minister General Yevgeniy Ivanovskiy and an accompanying delegation 10 November, Damascus radio noted, adding that they discussed cooperation between their two armies.

Lebanon Camps War — The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said eight people were killed in Amal-Palestinian fighting around Burj al-Barajinah 10 November and cited a PFLP report that three people were killed inside the camp by Amal shelling the following day. In remarks cited by Beirut radio, Amal leader Nabih Birri asserted that his movement seeks an immediate a..d

final cease-fire with the Palestinians, but he reaffirmed a number of Amal demands and stressed that only Amal is allowed to carry weapons and maintain security in southern Lebanon.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak swore in the new cabinet under Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi 12 November, MENA reported. According to a presidential decree broadcast by Cairo radio 11 November, the majority of ministers retained their portfolios, including the four deputy prime ministers. Muhammad 'Ali al-Razzaz was appointed finance minister replacing Mahmud Salah Hamid who was named governor of the Central Bank with the rank of deputy prime minister, MENA reported. Outgoing Prime Minister 'Ali Lufti was elected speaker of the Consultative Council, the agency noted.

In an interview with Cairo radio 10 November, Prime Minister Sidqi affirmed that subsidies for basic commodities will continue and his government will try to administer them more efficiently.

Israel

Vanunu Affair — Mordekhay Vanunu was recently transferred to a regular prison, IDF radio disclosed, adding that "senior sources" said the location of the prison is "sensitive." He will probably be charged with espionage, but not with treason, Jerusalem radio reported. As for Britain's request for an explanation of how Vanunu was transferred to Israel, a senior official cited *by Davar said Israel does not intend to explain this, though he* emphasized that Vanunu was not kidnapped on British territory.

Shamir on Leftists — Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir described members of the delegation which held talks with PLO members in Romania as "pro-PLO traitors," Jerusalem radio reported 12 November.

Haniyah Deportation — The High Court of Justice issued a temporary order preventing the IDF from implementing its expulsion order against *Al-Sha'b* editor Akram Haniyah, according to Jerusalem radio.

Libya

In response to EEC sanctions against Syria, the Foreign Liaison Bureau announced 11 November that Libya will halt weapons imports from EEC countries and called on other Arab countries to follow its example, Tripoli radio reported. The EEC's "anti-Arab measures" were another example of "submitting to U.S orders," according to a JANA commentary cited by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio.

Foreign Minister Kamil Hasan Mansur denied that Libya bombed and shelled areas of northern Chad, in 11 November remarks cited by Libreville Africa No 1 radio. The minister also rebutted allegations that Chadian opposition leader Goukouni Oueddei is under detention in Libya, AFP reported 10 November.

According to a Libyan official cited by KUNA, Libya and Tunisia made progress in the second round of talks to resolve a dispute which followed the August 1985 departure of thousands of Tunisian workers.

Algeria

A Constantine Governorate statement broadcast by Algiers radio 10 November accused "subversive elements" of exploiting "secondary issues" to incite riots in the city during recent days. The statement urged all students to return to classes and stressed that the authorities will "stand firm" against attempts to undermine public order.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Ershad Address on Passage of 7th Amendment

BK101619 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali
1345 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Address to nation by Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad — live or recorded]

[Text] Greetings dear countrymen. I have come before you on a very auspicious and important day in the history of our nation and people. It is a matter of great satisfaction that, with your active participation, the Seventh Amendment Bill to the Constitution was passed today in the elected Parliament. With the adoption of this bill all activities, reforms, laws, and regulations of my government from 24 March 1982 until today are being ratified. We have crossed today into the last phase of the solemn assurance I gave 4 and 1/2 years ago on the transition to democracy.

I said at the inauguration of the third session of Bangladesh Parliament on 10 July that I expect your cooperation for the total lifting of martial law within the shortest possible time without creating any legal or constitutional vacuum. That hope has been fulfilled today. I have received generous cooperation from my countrymen and the Parliament for the implementation of the transition to democracy.

The parliamentary and presidential elections were held in a peaceful and orderly manner. You extended to me enthusiastic and overwhelming support in the presidential election. By adopting the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution today you have opened the door for Parliament, the introduction of a full-fledged democratic system and revival of the constitutional government. This is not only the success of 4 and 1/2 years of untiring efforts by me and my government. This is not only the embodiment of my carefully nurtured dream. This is also the fulfillment of the aspirations of hundreds and thousands of martyrs of our great liberation war and the wishes of the people.

Today, a new era has begun in our history. It is an era of democracy, an era of victory for the people's rights, an era of progress on the path of democracy. On this day, for which we have waited so long, I am begging for the blessings from merciful Allah. I am seeking strength from the great Creater for marching calmly and steadfastly as members of the new era. On this day of success and on this glorious occasion of victory I extend to you my greetings and deep gratitude.

Dear countrymen, at the time of my taking of administrative responsibility in 1982, I promised that we would be returning to the democratic constitutional system within 2 years. But we were not able to do so. It took 4 and 1/2 years to reach the present situation. You know what the causes are for this delay. During the past 4 and 1/2 years I and my government worked patiently and sincerely for the attainment of our goal and for the fulfillment of our pledges. At times, the situation and the circumstances were not favorable and we were frustrated only because the responsibility we undertook as our duty for the attainment of the cherished goal was (?existing in our breath). We have once again been able to prove with your cooperation that if a goal is set and faith is strong, Allah surely showers success. [words indistinct]

I offer my gratefulness to Allah and once again express my sincere gratitude to you. Good bye. Long live Bangladesh.

Ershad Approves Bill

BK111555 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] The president gave his assent to the Constitution Seventh Amendment Bill 1986 at a simple ceremony at Banga Bhavan in Dhaka this morning. The bill was passed by more than two-thirds majority of the members of the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] in its second session held yesterday. The bill was submitted to the president after its adoption for his assent. Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, deputy prime ministers, and ministers were present on the occasion.

Opposition Terms End of Martial Law 'Sham'

BK110918 Hong Kong AFP in English 0859 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 11 (AFP) — Opposition leaders Tuesday dismissed the end of martial law in Bangladesh as a sham and vowed to continue pressing for political reforms in one of the world's poorest nations.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad lifted four years of military rule Monday and restored the Constitution after Parliament passed a bill that indemnified him for overthrowing a civilian government in a bloodless coup in March 1982.

Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed said the day's sequence of events painted "a black chapter" in the history of Bangladesh. "It is a tragedy for democracy," she said, adding that the controversial legislation had legitimized what she called the "ambitions" of Army officers. It would also be a temptation for others to commit "illegal actions," said Sheikh Hasina, who heads an eight-party alliance which has boycotted parliamentary sittings since disputed elections earlier this year in which it won 96 of the 330 seats.

Begum Khaleda Zia, head of the Bangladesh National Party, pledged to intensify the opposition movement "with the ultimate goal of compelling the present government to step down from power." "We do not recognize the government or Parliament as legally elected ones, and as such we are not bothered with the passage of the bill or the lifting of martial law," he said.

"The practice of legalizing forced military takeovers might invite martial law in the country in the future," added Amir Abbas Ali Khan, chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami Party.

Monday's vote on the controversial bill ratifying President Ershad's martial law rule came amid violence across Dhaka during a half-day strike called by the opposition to protest the bill. A 14-year-old boy was killed and at least a dozen people injured in clashes as demonstrators hurled stones and firecrackers at police who responded with baton charges and firecrackers. The lifting of martial law makes Mr Ershad a civilian president and formally cuts his links with the Armed Forces, from which he had already retired and relinquished his post as

Army chief of staff. He remains, however, commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces under the Constitution.

When Parliament is not in session, Mr Ershad will be able to issue presidential proclamations on any urgent issues, but these will need subsequent approval by the MP's, political observers in Dhaka noted. In a difficult law-and-order situation, he could constitutionally proclaim an emergency, but only as a temporary measure.

Mr Ershad, 56, who won a presidential election last month which had been boycotted by the major opposition parties, announced the end to martial law shortly after the 330-seat Parliament passed the indemnifiction bill by just two votes over the necessary twi-thirds majority. The bill immunizes the president from being challenged in court for the March 1982 coup and validates all orders, actions. and appointments he made under martial law since then.

Former Foreign Minister Kamal Hossain, an Awami League member who had helped frame the Bangladeshi Constitution, said the fact that the bill was passed before martial law was lifted rendered it "meaningless." "No part of the Constitution can be amended before the lifting of martial law and the complete restoration of the Constitution," he said.

'At Least 100' Injured in Clash With Police

BK111604 Hong Kong AFP in English 1557 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Nov 11 (AFP) — More than 100 people were injured here Tuesday when police broke up an opposition procession held to protest the alleged shooting of a youth by police Monday, eye-witnesses said. Police fired tear gas and baton-charged the procession led by opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia, who accused police of indiscriminately beating her supporters.

The violence came one day after President Hussain Mohammad Ershad lifted martial law and restored the Constitution after Parliament passed a bill that indemnified him for overthrowing a civilian government in March 1982. [passage omitted]

Monday's vote on the controversial bill ratifying President Ershad's martial law rule came amid violence across Dhaka during a half-day strike called by the opposition to protest the bill. A 14-year-old boy was allegedly shot dead by police Monday and at least a dozen people injured in clashes. Police have denied shooting the boy. Police also rejected opposition charges Tuesday that they indiscriminately beat members of the procession and said the police action came after stones were thrown at government vehicles. Some of the protestors also lobbed firecrackers and stones at policemen, who were forced to fire tear gas shells, police said. At least 12 people were arrested during Tuesday's clashes.

Begum Zia, who heads the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, was leading the procession after holding a rally at Dhaka's Baitul Mukarram Square to protest the alleged shooting of the 14-year-old boy. After police broke up the procession, Begum Zia rushed to the press club here along with other party leaders to condemn the police action, which she said came "without any provocation." She said that several party activists, including women, were mercilessly beaten by police, but could not provide figures on the number of injured. A correspondent on the scene said that at least 100 people had been injured in the police action. Obaidur Rahman, a former minister and BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] leader, told an aide to Begum Zia was slightly hurt when she was hit by a splinter from a tear gas shell.

Begum Zia earlier pledged to intensify opposition "with the ultimate goal of compelling the present government to step down from power." Other leading opposition leaders echoed her call. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies Amassing Troops Near Border

BK110743 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] A Defense Ministry spokesman has categorically denied reports that India has amassed troops near its western borders for major maneuvers. He said routine exercises are conducted in various areas during winter. When exercises are carried out close to the Pakistan border, prior information is given to Pakistan. Such information, the spokesman said, will be provided to Pakistan should any major exercise be held close to the border in the coming months.

External Minister on Moscow Visit, SAARC

BK111730 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1545 GMT 11 Nov 86

["Spotlight" Program: Interview with Minister of External Affairs N.D. Tiwari by special correspondent Manohar Takroo; place, date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Takroo] Mr Foreign Minister, well you started off your tenure in the External Affairs Ministry with, what everyone will agree, was an important assignment and which took you to a number of European countries including one of the two superpowers, that is, the Soviet Union, and also the Asian giant — Japan. Would you kindly say what was the purpose of the tour and what was its outcome. We might, perhaps, begin with your visit to Moscow, since, the Soviet Union is going to be in the news here in India for the coming few weeks in view of the forthcoming visit of Mr Gorbachev.

[Tiwari] My visit to Moscow was in the nature of a preparatory one to discuss the substantive proposals which will [be] on the agenda of discussions between General Secretary Gorbachev and Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. We hope that four major agreements or statements will be signed or declarations made during the historic Gorbachev visit. One will be a general declaration of principles, another would be an agreement on economic cooperation, further programs and projects that could cover our long-standing economic cooperation. Third could be concerning our consular affairs — opening of new consulates and other consular matters. The fourth could be a general statement on basic issues which encompass the international affairs as of today, including disarmament, nuclear disarmament, and all other matters which are the concern of the international community now a days. So, my meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev was a very personal experience for me and Mr Gorbachev highly impressed me as a great person, a very affable and a very amiable personality with a very sincere heart and with a very affectionate and natural linking for the Indian people. We all look forward to his historic visit to India, and we are all very assured that his meeting with our Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will be a very successful one and outcome of these talks will be not only a very constructive one for Indo-Soviet relations and lead us to a higher level of friendship but also beneficial to the prospects of peace in the world.

[Takroo] Could you kindly elaborate on these economic agreements that are likely to be signed. Can you [sentence interrupted]

[Tiwari] Well, as I said it would not be very proper for me to mention all the details of the agreements because these should be left to be disclosed properly at the time of signing of the agreement, but there are matters pertaining the development of power, coal, steel, and other modes of technological cooperation. [passage omitted on Tiwari's other visits]

[Takroo] Now, I will come to the next and totally different subject. Here in India, we are going to have the second summit of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] nations, meeting in the next few days; in fact, the preliminary meetings have already started in Bangalore. What are the issues that are likely to be discussed there?

[Tiwari] Well, SAARC is a very laudable regional organization dedicated to regional cooperation as the very name amplifies: South Asian regional cooperation. So, we hope that this summit will give a new dimension to the decisions already taken for regional cooperation. The agenda is being discussed at Bangalore. Tomorrow I am also going. We will have the meeting of the Council of Ministers, consisting of foreign ministers of these seven countries and then we will prepare the draft resolutions and the agenda for the summit meeting. We hope that something positive will come out of this meeting, out of this conference.

[Takroo] Well, since the SAARC has already been meeting for the last few years, I mean, at different levels, and there are already a number of plans which have already been formulated and finalized, will there be any machinery to see that these are implemented?

[Tiwari] Well, you know that we are going to have a SAARC secretariat now and that Katmandu is going to be the headquarters of the SAARC Secretariat, it has been agreed upon, and Bangladesh will [word indistinct] the first general secretaryship. So, then one will have the secretariat and the general secretary, then we will have a SAARC staff, and then it depends, you know, what is the budget of the SAARC. Because the funding and pledging of resources also takes place. Once this is done, we can cut our cloth according to the size of the resources and then we can program ourselves. There are projects, but it is up to the heads of state in the summit meeting to decide what projects to be taken, what resources allocated, what will be the priorities. Let us [see] what happens.

[Takroo] Will the question of funding be decided [sentence interrupted]

[Tiwari] Of course, it has to be decided upon because you have to set up the secretariat and you have to have the rules regarding operation of fund ability. I think we will have.

[Takroo] Well, thank you very much.

[Tiwari] Thank you very much.

SRI LANKA

Athulathmudali 'Welcomes' Tamil Nadu Raid

BK101401 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1350 GMT 10 Nov 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Now 10 (LANKA PUWATH) — Sri Lankan National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali has welcomed Saturday's raid by the Tamil Nadu police who disarmed terrorist groups in several parts of the south Indian state, the mass circulation English language newspaper the *Daily News* reported today.

"Who would have thought that Prabhakaran and his mates would have been taken into custody even for a few moments?, [quotation marks as received] the minister said at a Mahapola meeting at Wellawaya hours after the raids in south India.

He said that as far back as 1984, he had warned Prime Minister Gandhi that the terrorist guns would one day be trained on Indians. This had now begun to happen.

Stressing that the search for a political solution had not been abandoned, nor would be abandoned, Mr Athulathmudali said that it was best to end the problem without the loss of life. However, Colombo could in no way reduce its military preparedness, he said.

Noting that international opinion on the terrorist question was now turning, the minister said the myth that the Colombo government was killing innocent Tamils had been exploded and the terrorists were gradually being exposed.

"I wish I can say that peace is close at hand, but I am not an astrologer.... The government is determined to end this terrorists menance. Patience is necessary to obtain results, so please be patient", he said.

The picture was changing every day. At the time of the Anuradhapura massacre people were stunned and dejected. All those responsible for that atrocity were now dead.

"We did not say then that we would bet all those who took part in that massacre. But having got them, we can now say that we have accomplished that task.

"Nobody dreamed that action would be taken against the terrorists in Tamil Nadu. But that is now happening.... This is not a problem that can be ended overnight. There are no miracles or magic formulate", he said.

It was essential that those who wished to preserve the unitary character of the nation should not be divided. "I am not a pessimist. I am not discouraged by setbacks. I know we are on the correct path and can achieve a reasonable solution", he said.

Raid Responds to Masses' 'Desire'

BK111111 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1010 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] Colombo, Nov 11 (LANWA PUWATH) — 'Operation Tiger' mounted by the Tamil Nadu police last Saturday to crack down on Sri Lankan terrorists came in the wake of a rising crescendo of popular anger against the wave of armed outrage by them, states Indian press reports received by LANKA PUWATH today.

The reports state that the raids on 64 Tamil terrorist establishments in south India were an earnest response to what the masses desire, rather than a deliberate administrative decision. On this score alone, both the centre and the state government deserve praise. In its timing by scope and thoroughness the crackdown on armed Sri Lankan terrorists in Tamil Nadu has few parallels in recent times in intelligent planning and effective implementation, the mass circulation English daily *Tribune* has stated.

Whatever may be the policy impulse behind disarming the Tamil terrorists, the diplomatic fall out is wholely welcome.

It also satisfied the demand of most of the political parties in Tamil Nadu that the Sri Lankans should not be allowed to carry arms and use them against the local people. The press reports state that arms seized from the terrorists were worth several millions of rupees.

Armed police guards had been mounted at the homes of the terrorist leaders. According to the reports, Prabhakaran and Balasingham have been ordered not to venture out of their homes.

Tamil Leaders Said Under 'House Arrest'

BK111226 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1328 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text] Reports from Madras say that all the leaders of the Tamil Eelam freedom fighters who were called in for questioning have been under house arrest since 8 November. This information was confirmed in the statement released by Peter, one of the leaders of the Tigers [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE], last night. Reports say that all the organization leaders including the leader of the LTTE and chief military commander, Comrade Velupillai Prabhakaran and Dr Anton Balasingham, have been under detention in their own houses. All India Radio reported that all the members of LTTE, EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students], EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam], and TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] taken for questioning on Saturday morning were released. However, neither the Government of India nor the Government of Tamil Nadu has published the reason so far for keeping them under house arrest. The New Delhi government has officially announced the reason for the seige and arrest of the members of the Tamil Eelam organizations. It said that the above action was initiated only to restore law and order in Tamil Nadu. The pro-Tamil Nadu and central government newspapers reported that these governments took this decision only after the recent action by the EPRLF and PLOTE against the people of

Tamil Nadu. However, political observers have said that this lame accusation was made only to hoodwink the people of Tamil Nadu. Full details of the situation in India on Saturday and Sunday [8 and 9 November] will be reported in our news bulletin tomorrow.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran met and had discussions last Saturday evening. Reports say that they discussed how to manage the uproar in south India that will arise over the action taken by the central government of India against the Tamil Eelam freedom fighters that morning. Ramachandran's visit to New Delhi within hours of the detention of the freedom fighters by the Indian police for questioning and the seizure of their arms is an important matter. He had sent the written reply from the freedom fighters to New Delhi on the Sri Lankan Government proposals on 3 November.

Tamil Nadu political observers opined that the views expressed by the [Tamil] organizations continuously thereafter were not in consonance with the benevolent efforts of Ramachandran for a settlement and hence the police took action against Tamil Eelam organizations as a warning. However, it is a question of whether there will be an uproarious situation in Tamil Nadu. New Delhi circles reported that Ramachandran had discussions with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on how to handle the situation in case of any explosive — any extremely explosive — situation in the state. Ramachandran also had discussions with Prime Minister Gandhi on the new peace proposals of the Sri Lankan Government and is understood to have urged Rajiv Gandhi to have the Sri Lankan Government hold direct talks with the LTTE and that only then will there be some constructive result. Ramachandran has categorically said that any talks without the participation of the Tamil Eelam freedom fighters, including the LTTE, will not make progress.

Clandestine on Negotiations for Soldiers' Release

BK101431 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1328 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text] Leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam from Jaffna and Sri Lankan Army officers met and had a discussion in connection with the release of two soldiers yesterday. However, reports say that yesterday's talks did not yield the anticipated results and that further talks may be needed.

Meanwhile, military authorities have said that they buried the body of Major Ganesh [area commander of the Muttur Communist Party of Tamil Eelam] in (?Trincomalee) yesterday evening.

Five Soldiers Killed in Landmine Explosion

BK100901 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0840 GMT 10 Nov 86

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 10 (LANKA PUWATH) — Five soldiers [were] killed when a separatist terrorist landmine exploded on the Chenkaladi-Maha Oya road in Periyapullimalai, Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka this morning, the Media Centre in Colombo told LANKA PUWATH. The security forces were on patrol when the landmine was set off by terrorists.

The dead are: Lance Corporal H.K.K. Fernando, Kurunegala, soldiers H.M. Senaratne, Horowpatana, Anil Asoka, Haldumulla, W.A. Kularatne, Pannipitiya, and H.D. Samarasinghe of Badura-Eliya.

LTTE Wounds 19 in Security Forces Attack

BK101215 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1000 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) comrades attacked a security forces patrol on foot as well as in vehicles going from Vavuniya along Mannar road. Reports say that 19 persons were wounded and vehicles were damaged in this (?landmine) attack.

Army Attacks EPRLF Members; Seizes Weapons

BK101213 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1000 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan Army attacked EPRLF (Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front) comrades who were on (?patrol) at Vavuniya, Puwarasankulam area yesterday morning. Reports say that six EPRLF members were killed in this incident. Reports also say that the Army took AK-47 type automatic rifles, mortars, and hand grenades from them.

Khamene'i Briefed on Situation at Fronts

LD091736 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 9 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 9, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i Sunday received the imam's representative to the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) Colonel 'Ali Seyyed Shirazi. The colonel briefed the president on the latest situation at the war fronts.

Meanwhile, the president also received Iran's ambassador to Qatar Baqr Sakha'i here Sunday who briefed him on the friendly relations between Iran and Qatar. The president stressed on the need for expanding bilateral relations with neighbouring countries, especially the Muslim states.

In another meeting earlier the president received Iran's ambassador to Bangkok Reza Hoseyn Miraza-Taheri, here Saturday night. Taheri presented to the president an amount donated by a Thai Muslim to be spent on the battlefronts.

Italy's Craxi Denies Delivery of 'Any' Arms

LD120714 Tehran IRNA in English 0706 GMT 12 Nov 86

[Text] Rome, Nov 12, IRNA — The Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi in a speech in the parliament here Tuesday denied delivery of any arms to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Italian prime minister, pointing that there has been no deal between Italy and U.S. in sending arms to Iran, emphasized that his country has stopped selling any kind of weapons to the two warring countries since 1984.

Answering to a question of the parliament members on this issue, he further told that he has requested the security forces and the related ministers to prepare a detailed report clarifying the matter.

The Italian state-run television which broadcast Craxi's statements added that export of any kind of arms from Italy requires approval of a special committee comprising of a few ministers. The committee, it added, controls arms sales to other countries.

AFP Reports U.S. Withdrawal of AWACS for Iraq

AU101426 Paris AFP in English 1404 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text] Paris, Nov 10 (AFP) — The United States has withdrawn the support of its Saudi-based AWACS aircraft for Iraq in response to an Iranian promise to help free American hostages in Lebanon, an informed oil-industry weekly said Monday.

Petrostrategies, a respected Paris-based magazine with close contacts in the Arab world, said its information came from "a source very close to the Saudi Arabian royal family." The withdrawal would have the effect of "considerably loosening the vise" that Iraq is trying to impose on Iranian oil exports, the weekly said.

AWACS — Airborne Warning and Control Systems — aircraft play a key role in detecting aircraft buildups and air alerts and in coordinating airbone movements. Their withdrawal means it will be virtually impossible for Iraq to carry out in-flight refuelling and make long-range strikes on Iranian targets, as it did on August 12 in an unexpected raid on the Sirri floating oil terminal at the entrance to the Gulf, *Petrostrategies* said. It thought that Iranian oil terminal at Khark Island, in the northeastern Gulf, would still be exposed to Iraqi attack, but Iran overall would be able to recover much of its lost output.

Petrostrategies said Iraq's blockade tactics against Iranian oil were costing Tehran between 1.53 billion and 1.84 billion dollars a year.

The United States' official stance in the Gulf war is one of neutrality.

AFP: 'Counterintelligence Officer' Arrested

AU101425 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text] Paris, Nov 10 (AFP) — The chief counter-intelligence officer of the Iranian Army, Mohammad Mehdi Katibeh, [name as received], is under arrest in Tehran, the Iranian People's Mojahedin said here Monday.

The Mojahedin's press bureau said Mr Katibeh officially had been arrested for "providing military information" outside the Army, but that his detention marked "the mushrooming of internal crises" in the Iranian regime.

Mr Katibeh's alleged arrest was decided at a high-level meeting which included Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i and [Majlis] Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Mojahedin said, adding that Mr Khamene'i had opposed the arrest.

The Mojahedin also said the arrest was not linked with the power struggle surrounding Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, successor- designate of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni.

Iranian military officers held responsible for the failure of the anti-Iraq Dawn IX offensive earlier this year — including Mr Katibeh — have been elbowed out for the past months, the Mojahedin said.

The Mojahedin's press bureau is located near Paris, in the former home of Mojahedin leader Mas'sud Rajavi, who left France for Iraq earlier this year.

IRNA on EC Sanctions Imposed on Syria

LD101804 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Excerpt] London, Nov 10, IRNA — Eleven members of the European Community (EC) have agreed to soften reprisals against Syria for its alleged complicity in terrorism. At a meeting of the EC foreign ministers in London Monday, they accepted a modified package of sanctions consisting of a ban on arms sales to Damascus, together with a ban on meetings with high ranking Syrian officials, [and] tighter surveillance of Syrian diplomats and Syrian Arab Airlines. From the EC, only Greece refused to support the measures proposed by Britain.

The agreement is seen as a compromise to the imposition of firm economic and diplomatic actions urged by British Foreign Minister Geoffrey Howe at Luxembourg on October 27. The ministers had rejected demands to restrict missions and ties with the Damascus government.

As in Luxembourg, Greece was outspoken on the issue and remained unconvinced of the British assertions against the Syrian leadership. The Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Theodhoros Pangalos pointed out that Syria had produced its own evidence, which "refuted every point" made by Britain. Speaking on BBC television before the meeting he insisted on rejecting the measures, even though they would not have affected Greece if accepted by the remaining EC members.

Syria has denied any involvement in the attempt to plant a bomb in an Israeli airliner last April, saying the whole affair was fabricated by Mosad, the Zionist regime's intelligence organisation. After last month's London trial of a Jordanian accused of trying to carry out the plot, Britain broke off diplomatic relations with Damascus. Syria responded by expelling the British diplomatic mission.

Preceding the European Community meeting here, a storm erupted further disputing the British allegations, despite subsequent denials. [passage omitted]

Ministry Affirms Support for Syria

LD101714 Tehran IRNA in English 1616 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 10, IRNA — A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry here described Britain's charges against Syria as 'baseless' and reiterated Iran's support for the Syrian Government, Monday.

The spokesman said that Britain's call for a meeting of the foreign ministers of European Economic Community was in line with the adventurous policy of the U.S. and international Zionism against Muslim strugglers.

He also warned pro-Britain governments not to exert pressure on Syria and called on them to avoid falling into the trap by adopting policies independent of the aggressive ones of the U.S., Britain, and the Zionist regime.

UK Government To Be 'Primary Loser'

LD081326 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 8 Nov 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The scenarios of deception recently concocted by the London government, with full backing from Washington and Tel Aviv, in order to counter Syria's anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist role in the region, after 2 weeks not only have lost their color, but have also become a factor for increased undermining of Thatcher's political prestige among her allies and among the Middle East countries.

Following the denials by high-ranking officials in West European countries with regard to Syria's role in incidents concocted by Britain, some others are now openly stating that Israel and those in opposition to Syrian leader Hafiz al-Asad were prime architects of the alleged planting of a bomb in an Israeli aircraft.

French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac, in an interview given to *The Washington Times* said that West German leaders informed him that the Israeli espionage organization, known as Mosad, and the opposition to the Syrian Government, were the architects of the said incident. Although the office of the French Prime Minister announced that these unpleasant remarks were the conclusions reached by the paper's correspondent and that the offices of the FRG chancellor and foreign minister also denied the report carried by *The Washington Times*, nevertheless this in itself confirms the total fiasco of the British plot in setting up a united front against Syria.

In the meantime the Reagan Administration, which is, as usual, the only firm supporter and defender of the policies and measures undertaken by Margaret Thatcher and, in many instances, the exemplar of the British conservatives, is attempting by all possible means to intensify the anti-Syrian climate in order to better achieve its filthy intention.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who returned to Washington from his European tour yesterday, announced that the United States is ready to carry out fresh measures against Syria. In the meantime, in connection with the visit to Israel by the deputy-secretary to the U.S. Defense Department, certain (?papers) have interpreted the reports as being aimed at coordinating a military attack on Syria at a time when other indications, including reconnaissance flights undertaken by U.S. warplanes across the airspace of Syrian coastal waters, also confirm this.

However, reports received from Syria indicate that that country is in a state of full readiness to counter any aggressive step by the United States or Britain. Syria will undoubtedly enjoy the decisive support of the Islamic Republic of Iran in its defense of its anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist aspirations.

All in all it seems that during the next few days, when the EEC foreign ministers will meet in London, British attempts at embroiling the West European governments in its manufactured plot will reach their zenith. Although it is not unlikely that certain governments, in order to save the face of geriatric colonialism, might agree to certain limited and ineffectual diplomatic steps against Syria under pressure from Britain and the United States, undoubtedly, bearing in mind the consequences that would beset London, the primary loser in this artificial plot is the government of the British conservatives which will be increasingly isolated in the region.

'Normalization' Talks Being Held With France

NC101559 Paris AFP in English 1550 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Text] Paris, Nov 10 (AFP) — France and Iran are holding talks on a possible "normalization" of their relations, official Iranian

radio said on Monday, describing the policy of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac as "intelligent."

The radio statement, monitored in Paris, said that France had "fulfilled several of the conditions set by Iran for a normalization of relations." However, France's continuing support for Iraq in the six-year-old Iran-Iraq war remained the main obstacle, it said.

"Talks are going on between Paris and Tehran, although normalization can never occur so long as France goes on supporting Iraq," the radio commentator said. He added that Mr Chirac was meeting resistance to his policy towards Iran both within the French administration — in particular from President Francois Mitterrand — and from Britain and the United States.

The radio broadcast said that "serious differences" had appeared between Mr Chirac and Mr Mitterrand concerning "whether or not French diplomats could trust the region's progressive states." This appeared to be a reference to France's attitude towards Iran's ally Syria, who is under fire from most Western industrialized states because of its alleged role in an attempt to plant a bomb on an Israeli airliner in London last April.

The radio broadcast coincided with an EEC foreign ministers' meeting in London at which 11 of the 12 Community countries — including France but excluding Greece — agreed to enact limited sanctions against Syria. [passage omitted]

"Mr Chirac is trying to preserve France's long-term interests in this region by breaking with the mistaken policies of the socialists," the Iranian radio said. The broadcast made a violent attack on the pro-Iraqi and pro-Israeli policies implemented by Mr Mitterrand's Socialist Party, which was voted out of office in March. Those policies were "a shameful blot, which it will take France a long time to rub out," it said.

The radio commentator also said that the progressive countries of the Middle East can take advantage of internal French divergences, and of those between France and its Western allies to decrease the pressures exerted by Israel and the United States.

On Friday the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said Iran would help free the French hostages in Lebanon if France paid back some two billion dollars of a loan which Iran had granted it under the regime of the late shah. A Franco-Iranian financial agreement on repaying the loan was signed in Paris on October 29.

Readiness to Release Egyptian POW's Denied

LD111542 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 11, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry official denied here Tuesday claims that Iran is ready to release Egyptian POW's captured in the course of Iraq-Iran war.

In its Tuesday issue, Kuwaiti daily *Al-Ray' Al-'Aam* claimed that Iran was ready to receive an Egyptian delegation for talks on the POW issue.

The pro-Iraqi daily put the number of Egyptian POW's at 13,000.

Plot To Hijack Domestic Flight 10 Nov Foiled

LD110524 Tehran IRNA in English 0520 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., Nov 11, IRNA — An armed man and woman, agents of international imperialism who attempted to hijack an Iran Air airbus were arrested by flight security guards before carrying out their plot, Monday afternoon [10 November].

The two who were on board the plane on a domestic flight from Tehran to Tabriz, capital of East Azarbayjan Province, were arrested.

The plane landed at Tabriz airport at 1645 hours local time (1315 GMT) and all passengers disembarked the plane safely.

Iraqi Senior Intelligence Officer Killed

LD112152 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov 11, IRNA — A senior official of the Iraqi intelligence agency was killed in an armed attack by Iraqi Muslim mojahedin in Kazemein. [city name as received]

A spokesman for the Iraqi Islamic Amal Organisation told IRNA that in the operation carried out on Oct 24 a group of mojahedin attacked a car carrying intelligence agency officials at Kazemein's Abdul-Mohsen Square [name as received] killing the said official and injuring four others.

In another operation, said the spokesman, Iraqi mojahedin attacked security officials as they were on duty in Kazemein to prevent the holding of mourning ceremonies on the occasion of "Arbein" (25 Oct).

The spokesman stressed that Iraqi mojahedin would continue the attacks. He said all fighters returned to their bases safely after carrying out the operations.

Commentary on War Until 'Final Victory'

LD121010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 12 Nov 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The wave of the Inheritors of 'Ashura and the lovers and strugglers of God's path toward the fronts of battle and jihad, daily increases the glory of God and the iron will of the heroic and self-sacrificing nation of Islam, their sublime aims and humane existence, and shines in the eyes of the world's people.

The storming of our resistant and steadfast nation toward the battlefronts against world blasphemy and apostasy has found a new impetus. For it is now clear to all heroic Iranian people that their honor, integrity, and pride depend on the continuation of

the war until final victory; they realize that the independence, freedom, and prosperity of the Muslim Iranian people depend on resistance, struggle, and the continuation of the holy defense against world arrogance and Saddam's warmongers.

The brave and self-sacrificing people of Iran realize that the advanced equipment of the world of blasphemy has been crushed by their strong resolve and iron will. The ringleaders of arrogance, who until recently thought it improbable for the Islamic Republic to attain military victory in the imposed war, with an unprecedented u-turn now consider Iran's victory a certainty, and are therefore deeply horrified.

The desperate reaction of the Great Satan, through Robert McFarlane's recent trip to our country, resulting in an unprecedented defeat and disgrace for the ringleaders of world blasphemy, and the recent remarks made by the French premier about the defeat of Saddam's aggression, are parts of this reality.

The *U.S. News & World Report* magazine, which usually submits the political viewpoints of Americans, referring to the fact that Iran will soon attack Iraq, overthrow that country's regime, and bring Western oil supplies under her control, writes: A year ago, such an outcome for the war seemed extremely unrealistic; now that Iran's military units are ready, this outcome seems more logical. This time, the strategic initiative is in Iran's hands. Quoting a Western intelligence source, the magazine writes: A year ago, I was not working on scripts about Saddam's downfall, but I have recently started working on such a script.

Yes, the source of this great, divine power which has been able to make all these satanic powers weak and despondent, is nothing but the exciting and saga-making revolutionary resistance and divine patience of you, the Hezbollahi and vigilant nation. You, with your strong and resolute iron will, stand tall and rise to the defense of dear Islam with self-sacrifice, and are adamant to continue your relentless battle until the downfall of the criminal and warmongering rulers of Iraq; you should know that, as our dear great imam stressed in his recent speech, you are victorious and Saddam is on his way out and will soon go, God willing.

Iraq's Supporters 'Retreat' in 'Panic'

LD101733 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1100 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] A marginal note on the imam of the nation's remarks [Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomenyi's 9 November address]: In response to the imam's latest remarks, the Mobilization Unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced that a plan to create a 100,000-strong Mohammad, peace be upon him, Corps will be put into effect as of today. According to a Central News Unit report, the forces will be organized soon and will then head for the battlefronts during Mobilization Week [starting 26 November], following a massive and extensive program.

The unwavering determination of the Iranian nation to crush the aggressive enemy — a determination manifesting itself these days in the rush to the fronts by volunteer forces — has led to panic among arrogant quarters. [passage omitted]

The global arrogance has now come to realize this significant point: it fully understands the unwavering determination of the Iranian nation. It is, therefore, within the framework of this panic and the eventual defeat of Saddam Husayn that even the closest benefactors of the Iraqi regime are beginning to retreat, being apprehensive that the consequences of this forthcoming victory may affect them as well. It is in light of this event that they openly admit to Iraq's aggression.

The oppressed peoples of the world continue to gain more strength as Iranian forces continue to achieve victory after victory. The defeat of the imposing U.S. presence, which, according to world media, was being presented to the world as a great giant and an invincible superpower, has led to its leaders disgracing themselves by their contradictions, forcing them almost to resort to hallucinogens to cover up their ridiculous defeats.

What is of more interest in the midst of all these developments is the stands being taken by the region's shaykhs and the Persian Gulf states, more interesting not because they have anything worth saying or that their stands might affect Saddam's fate which is already sealed; rather, it is more interesting because they have buried their heads, like an ostrich, in the sand. Oblivious to the consequences of their support for Saddam's regime, they continue to demonstrate their obstinacy. Therefore, they misinterpret the kindness and restraint shown by the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Control of Persian Gulf

NC101248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 10 Nov 86

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In an interview, the commander of the Islamic Republic's Navy delineated those areas under our control in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf as far as its southern coasts. He noted that the zone under control was expanded as a result of futile attempts by certain ships which, contrary to international regulations, use the territorial waters of littoral countries to enter the Strait of Hormuz. This prompted the decision to enlarge the defensive zone, and to have the Iranian Navy tighten its control deep into the Sea of Oman, the Persian Gulf, and the Strait of Hormuz. Despite the fact that Saddam's mentors have resorted to every sort of ploy and new policy, our units will be alert in taking the special measures they have prepared for any eventuality.

The Islamic Republic of Iran chose to inspect merchant ships once it had sufficient proof of the support given by certain Persian Gulf states in terms of loading and unloading cargo, particularly war materiel, bound for Iraq. A spokesman for the War Propaganda Staff announced last year that the inspection of vessels suspected of carrying goods for Iraq was continuing in the Persian Gulf, and that no further hostile acts against the Islamic Revolution, or assistance to the Baghdad regime, would be permitted in this waterway. Also last year, following Kuwait's

protest to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council over the seizure of one of its ships, he said the reasons behind its interdiction were clear, given Kuwait's financial and logistical backing of Saddam's warmongering regime, and its refusal to stop its assistance to such an aggressor.

We should recall that a lightning attack at the start of the imposed war by the Islamic Republic's Navy left most of Iraq's maritime facilities in ruins. In light of the Iranian Navy's ability to stabilize the military situation and its operation to destroy what was left of the Iraqi Navy, certain Persian Gulf states exploited the Islamic Republic's goodwill. By carrying goods to their own ports and then shipping them off to Iraq, they tried to keep Saddam's regime alive and to have the warmongers remain active in the region a bit longer.

Thus, the decision to inspect vessels and to create a zone of permanent control was feasible thanks to our naval strength. Since then, many crates of war materiel destined for Iraq have been discovered and confiscated. In Dey [month ending 20 January], a Danish ship named *Hornland* was seized while carrying 60 tons of explosives for the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. It was later released after being emptied. Following the seizure and inspection of a 22,000-ton British ship in the Sea of Oman, Timothy Renton, an adviser to the Foreign Office, confessed in his answer to three British MP's that Iran's right to inspect and control ships in open waters to prevent the delivery of weapons to Iraq was based on international law and conformed to the UN Charter.

After the great victory in the wake of "Val Fajr-8" and the liberation of much of the coast and waters at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, which was coupled with the destruction of Iraqi naval facilities, certain warships began to appear more frequently in the zone under our control. Once this occurred, the commander of the Navy pointed out that we have, since the start of the imposed war, declared part of the Persian Gulf as our security sphere. As such, any vessel which enters must bear the consequences.

Some countries in the region have yet to attain the necessary level of awareness. Their decisions at conferences of Persian Gulf states reflect their insistence on maintaining their overt and covert support for employing plots and ploys to deliver war materiel. They should remember that there can be no excuse for supporting a warmonger or for helping a regime that has disguised itself from head to toe behind false propaganda and which does not hesitate to martyr ulema and clergymen or to massacre soldiers, officers, and the oppressed Iraqi people themselves.

Another point that highlights the warmongering nature of 'Aflaqite Saddam, who fomented the imposed war, are the confessions of French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. Chirac said that the Iraqi regime informed him of its aggressive objectives before launching its attack on the Islamic Republic. While Chirac's remarks on the war are not new, this is the first time that such a senior European official has admitted being aware of Iraq's aggression against Islamic Iran. However, one may ask why Mr Chirac made his confession now, after 6 years of war, after dispatching limitless quantities of supplies, and after offering his open support on the political and international scene. This end to the French prime minister's silence is obviously nothing but an admission of the Islamic Republic's power, and of the inability of world arrogance to prevent the imminent defeat of the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq. Chirac himself said this in an interview with *The Washington Times*. As the great leader of the Islamic Revolution declared recently, Saddam will fall. This is something that world arrogance is now fully aware of, and it considers itself too weak to stop it.

3 Ships Intercepted 6-10 Nov Released

LD111048 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 11, IRNA — Three ships which were intercepted by the Iranian Navy during the past week, were permitted to continue their voyage, said Navy Commander Captain Malekzadegan here Tuesday.

The commander further said that the Greek, Liberian, and Norwegian ships, impounded between Nov 6 to 10, were released after a thorough search that they were not carrying goods for Iraq.

The ships were intercepted in the Strait of Hormuz and were escorted to southern ports of the country for inspection.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqis Raid Esfahan; 7 Killed

LD120833 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 12 Nov 86

[Text] Esfahan, Nov 12, IRNA — Seven civilians were martyred and 25 others were injured in Iraqi air raid on two industrial units here Wednesday morning.

The attack of the Iraqi fighters has also damaged the units.

Iraqis Bomb Petrochemical Complex

OW121239 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 12 Nov 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, Nov 12, KYODO — Iraqi warplanes Tuesday bombed a construction site at the Iran-Japan Petrochemical Co. (IJPC) complex in Bandar-e Khomeyni, southern Iran, an IJPC source confirmed Wednesday. He said four bombs exploded, damaging electricity-generating equipment near the center of the plant which, although not directly related to the manufacturing of petrochemical products, is central to the overall operation. The complex was unmanned at the time.

IJPC, a joint venture between the National Iranian Oil Company and five Japanese firms of the Mitsui group, started building the complex in 1973. The 1979 Islamic Revolution and the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war interrupted work on the company's petrochemical site with construction only 80 percent completed.

In a supplementary agreement concluded in July 1983, Iran agreed to shoulder the financial burden involved in further construction, but work ceased again after Iraqi attacks in September 1984 forced the evacuation of Japanese technicians. [passage omitted]

Retaliatory Attacks Planned
LD120455 Tehran IRNA in English 0450 GMT 12 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 12, IRNA — Industrial and military centers of the Iraqi cities of Basra, Umm Qasr, and Khanaqin will be shelled for 48 hours starting Wednesday afternoon. The shelling will be in retaliation for renewed Iraqi attacks on Iranian civilian and industrial areas.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters called on residents of the cities to evacuate the cities in order to remain immune of the shelling.

Iraqi MiG-23 Downed
LD111628 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov 11, IRNA — An Iraqi MiG-23 warplane was shot down by anti-aircraft fire of the Muslim combatants in Bandar-e Mahshahr at 17:10 hours local time (13.40 hours GMT) Tuesday.

The plane crashed in Khur Mousa [name as received] waters north of the Persian Gulf and a search was launched to locate the pilot.

Several Iraqi warplanes raided and damaged an industrial unit in Bandar-e Mahshahr. No casualties were inflicted.

Some 16 civilians were martyred and 73 others wounded in Iraqi air raids on Bakhtaran and north of Shushtar on October 30.

Guards Corps Sinks Iraqi Boats
LD111115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 86

[Text] An announcement of the Central Heaquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps says:

Last night, a group of marines from the trapped Navy of the Iraqi Zionist regime on the opposite side of Khawr 'Abdullah, using two vessels, intended to approach positions of the forces of Islam. But before having the chance to carry out any operations, they became targets of intense fire from the coastal artillery unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy.

On the basis of this report, the burning Iraqi vessels were sent to the bottom of Khawr 'Abdullah with the Iraqi regime's marines on board.

'More Than 30' Iraqis Killed
LD071638 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 7 Nov 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov 7, IRNA — More than 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed as their positions in eastern Abulkhasib came under Iranian fire Thursday and Friday.

Accurate Iranian fire also destroyed 10 Iraqi bunkers, two military vehicles, and three observation posts in the region.

The city of Abadan sustained some damage as a result of Iraqi heavy artillery fire Thursday and Friday.

Meanwhile, artillery fire of the Iranian Muslim combatants on Iraqi positions in Bakhtaran and Ilam fronts destroyed four bunkers, two watch posts, and a mortar launcher emplacement, killing 13 enemy soldiers.

arrested.

Communique No 2,648
LD071621 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 7 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 7, IRNA — Iranian naval forces intercepted and inspected three cargo ships in the Hormuz Strait Thursday. Another ship which had been impounded at a southern port for inspection on November 2, was released and continued voyage at 14:30 GMT Thursday since it carried no Iraqi-bound cargo.

Joint Staff Communique No 2,648 released here Friday also said that Iranian airborne forces inflicted considerable casualties and losses on enemy troops, and on several Iraqi tanks and personnel carriers which were attempting to launch operations against Muslim forces in a northwestern front. Twelve patrol units of the Muslim forces also caried out reconnaissance operations in the region and returned safely to base.

Heavy artillery fire of Iranian forces destroyed part of Iraqi gun and tank emplacements, infantry units, supply routes, and watch posts and disrupted their logistic activities, said the communique.

In western fronts, the communique said, Iranian artillery fire several misled military personnel have been identified and inflicted substantial casualties and losses on the enemy and halted relocation of an Iraqi infantry unit in Qasr-e Shirin operational region.

Reconaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters in western Jofeyr and southern Khorramshahr were totally checked by Muslim combatants surface to air fire forcing the enemy planes to flee, said the communique. Iranian Gendarmerie forces destroyed three Iraqi vehicles, several bunkers, and watch posts Thursday, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,649
LD081522 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 8 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 8, IRNA — A considerable number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and seven enemy bunkers and observation posts, several vehicles, three munitions dumps, and an anti-aircraft gun destroyed throughout the fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,649 said that Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected two cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the western fronts Friday raging somewhat more heavily in Mehran and Helaleh operational theaters as a result of which an enemy anti-aircraft gun was destroyed, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iranian forces heavily shelled Iraqi positions on Friday inflicting substantial casualties on enemy troops and destroying several vehicles and one munitions dump of theirs.

Elsewhere, the communique said a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and seven enemy bunkers and observation posts, two munitions dumps, and several vehicles destroyed in parts of the southern and western fronts Friday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces.

An Iraqi armoured unit suffered heavy losses by Iranian artillery fire in Yabis operational theater. Iraqi engineering operations were disrupted and some engineering hardware set ablaze in Nahr 'Anbar on Friday, according to the communique.

The military communique furthermore said that a convoy of Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Helaleh sustained several casualties and was forced to flee under Iranian artillery fire on Thursday.

In the northwestern fronts, movements of Iraqi vehicle columns were checked in Sardasht, Marivan, and Piranshahr operational theaters on Friday. Iranian forces also pounded enemy positions inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them, the communique said.

Iranian artillery also prevented Iraqi troops from fortifying their positions in Basra operational theater on Friday.

Communique No 2,650

LD091652 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 9 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 9, IRNA — Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses in articllery and mortar duels with Iranian Muslim combatants throughout the fronts on Saturday, said a military communique here Sunday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,650 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in Dehloran, western Fronts, on Saturday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them. Elsewhere in the western fronts, parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze and several enemy vehicles destroyed by Iranian artillery fire, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iraqi troops suffered considerable casualties and losses and enemy fire was silenced by Iranian artillery fire on Saturday. Several enemy observation posts and watch towers were also destroyed in areas overlooking Khorramshahr.

Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in Sharhani, Pich-e Angizeh and Jofeyr operational theaters in the southern fronts on Saturday inflicted heavy casualties and losses and then and set afire a number of enemy tanks, according to the communique.

A convoy of Iraqi patrols sustained casualties and was forced to flee in areas overlooking Chazzabeh operational theater, southern fronts by Iranian artillery fire.

Elsewhere, the communique said that exchange of artillery fire continued in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts on Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Mehran as a result of which a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and two enemy heavy trucks destroyed. Enemy engineering operations were aiso halted. Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions and supply routes in Sardasht, Marivan, and Hajj 'Umran, northwestern fronts, on Saturday killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and destroying several vehicles of theirs, the communique concluded.